

 **CURRENT BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR AQUATIC SCIENCES AND FISHERIES.** *Compiled by Food and Agriculture Organization, Fisheries Biology Branch, Rome, Italy. Taylor & Francis Ltd., London, England. Published in parts. \$27.00 (per volume of 12 parts).*

One of the important research aids in the field of fishery biology is this annotated bibliographic journal issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Formerly issued in mimeographed form, it appears in a printed edition in a more attractive and compact format beginning with Volume 3, 1960, and is to be issued in 12 parts to a volume.

In 1955 the FAO Fisheries Biology Branch began to examine and abstract scientific literature pertaining to fisheries resources for use by the staff of FAO. To broaden the coverage, assistance was received from research institutions, regional fisheries organizations, and others. A mimeographed document was begun in 1958 for exchange with the collaborators, and distribution of this document increased to the extent that FAO decided to print and publish the list in 1960 for general distribution on a subscription basis. According to the compilers, the publication is still prepared primarily as a document for internal use by FAO but the usefulness of the bibliography extends to anyone interested in research in the field of fisheries science.

This bibliography is limited in general to documents on studies of living aquatic resources and their environments, or to methods of research in this field. It includes references to both marine and inland (fresh) waters, each designated by an appropriate symbol. The two parts of Volume 3 that have appeared contain a total of 1,236 entries, the second part containing also the current indexes covering the first two issues.

References are selected from various sources, including documents, books, theses and dissertations, abstracts, other bibliographies, etc. Certain periodicals are indexed completely, while others are only partially indexed depending on subject matter. The references are serially numbered but not entered in any particular order, although references from a single publication are entered in order of appearance in the issue. If some formal arrangement of the entries, by subject or other grouping, were adopted, the material would be more readily accessible in issues received prior to the indexes. The annotations are concise and well done. Other helpful features are the translation of titles and language symbols.

The current indexes, consisting of author, geographic, taxonomic, subject, and citation sections, are comprehensive but are to appear only in part of the issues of a volume with annual indexes to follow. The index sections are arranged alphabetically or by classification and code. The subject index follows a special subject code pending the completion of the revised *Decimal Classification for Fisheries Science* which is being prepared by FAO. Guides to the classifications and codes used in the current indexes appear in the explanatory notes in Part 1, 1960.

The use of this extensive reference list is not limited to fishery scientists. Other research workers and especially librarians will find the bibliography

useful. The compilers state that they plan a more comprehensive publication eventually, but this book serves as an excellent guide to the current scientific literature pertaining to fisheries resources and the application of fisheries science.

STELLA BREEDLOV

*Biological Laboratory  
U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries  
Galveston, Texas*

**THE FRESHWATER FISHES OF CANADA.** By E. Slastenenko. *The Author, 132 Hillsdale Ave., Toronto 7, Canada. 1958. 385 pp., 138 figs., table. \$15.95.*

Dr. Slastenenko, who came to Canada from Europe about 10 years ago, has privately published this volume which attempts to treat all of the freshwater fishes of Canada. If his efforts have been less than successful it has not been for lack of painstaking work. The treatment is classical, consisting of a list of synonyms, morphologic description, distribution, and life history data. There are keys to families, genera, and species.

It should be emphasized that this work is largely an uncritical compilation in which free use was made of the few regional works currently available for various parts of Canada. One expects a certain amount of sifting and evaluating in a work of this type but there are too many cases of uncritical repetition due primarily to the author's lack of familiarity with the fauna and those working with it.

The nomenclature deviates widely from current usage, reflecting perhaps the fact that the author was not in close contact with working ichthyologists. More subspecies have been recognized than is usual among contemporary workers and listed, for example, are three subspecies for *Salmo gairdneri*, two for *Salmo salar*, three for *Leucichthys nigripinnis*, and three for *Coregonus clupeaformis*.

There are two pages of errata which do not include all the errors. In addition there are errors in spelling, typography, and omission. There are also many errors in the distributions. The illustrations have been reproduced from other publications with great loss in quality. A detailed listing of errors, many of which could have been eliminated by more critical reading of the manuscript, is considered unnecessary.

The wonder, however, is not that there are so many errors but that there are so few. The author has overcome a serious language barrier and gathered together a tremendous amount of information about the Canadian freshwater fish fauna, all in a few years. From this point of view the book is perhaps a personal triumph for the author. He was, however, ill-advised to go to press, for the high price is out of all proportion to the value of the publication. Authors aspiring to works of this type should solicit the closest possible association with institutions housing pertinent collections and the records, libraries, and other facilities associated with them.

W. B. SCOTT

*Department of Fishes  
Royal Ontario Museum  
Toronto, Canada*